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24 October 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 24 October 1979

The Director was attending a Cabinet meeting; Mr. Carlucci chaired the meeting. []

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Lehman noted a press report of Brezhnev's appearance yesterday at the Moscow Airport in contrast to recent intelligence reports of Brezhnev's illness. He explained the reports are not totally inconsistent since Brezhnev has in the past traveled back and forth to the sanitarium for medical treatment. []

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McMahon also reported on the following:

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--McMahon said he has noticed increased reporting over the past few weeks on Soviet laser technology and asked if NFAC is amalgamating all of this. Clarke said he will check this out with [] of the laser task force.

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--McMahon cited a report that, in efforts to improve its relationships in Latin America--especially with Brazil and Argentina, the Saudis have pressed Brazil to clarify its policy and support of the PLO as a precondition to an oil supply arrangement. McMahon underscored here the use of oil as a political weapon.

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[] reported he and others, including OER, had a very successful meeting yesterday with RMS. The meeting centered on very real problems in the CIA program/budget resulting from continued high inflation and on what inflation factors are to be applied for the '81 program. []

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Hetu said he was contacted yesterday by David Wise (The Invisible Government by Wise and Ross) re the Agency's position on the hiring of "gays." Hetu said he responded, in essence, that this matter is handled largely on a case-by-case basis. Later in the meeting, Silver said we should be clearer in our position on this topic. He cited our recent letter to Harvard on the hiring of homosexuals and that we, in fact, do not deal strictly on a case-by-case basis. He said further we as an Agency are dealing with this matter in ways that can easily convey wrong impressions with potential impacts, e.g., on contractor employees. Mr. Carlucci suggested we simply state the Agency does not hire homosexuals.

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[] reported on the current situation of Senator Glenn and SALT, and the impact of Glenn's concern for a treaty amendment. Discussion covered the "15 Percent Amendment" and a move by Glenn to request a Presidential Commission--a one-time effort--to study intelligence collection and analytical capabilities. Hitz, who arrived later at the Staff Meeting, said he has alerted Senator Bayh of Glenn's unilateral action in an area of SSCI responsibility. Hitz noted that Senator Baker's amendment proposal was defeated yesterday by a narrow margin, 8-7. Hitz opined that a similar move by Glenn could do at least as well--even win. Relatedly, Mr. Carlucci asked Clarke if we are close with Admiral Inman on our position re information value [] Clarke responded in the affirmative.

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Hitz said he has learned from Tom Latimer that the HPSCI intends to conduct an audit (performance evaluation) of the Intelligence Community Staff. He said HPSCI will contract with Arthur B. Little, Inc., to conduct the audit and that HPSCI's concerns center on the Community's reprogramming process and the flow of budget amendments to the Hill during this past spring on such projects as [] items. Hitz said all of this stems mainly from Representative Burlison's (HAC) concerns re intelligence budgetary procedures. [] noted how he has been beaten steadily but quietly on the Hill in this matter and raised the question of how we should posture ourselves for such an audit--e.g., take the heat alone or implicate the Administration for its culpabilities in this area. McMahon said he views this situation gravely, mainly, that the audit is to be conducted by outsiders; he said the precedent could lead eventually to a potential audit of the DDO by outsiders which would be disastrous. Hitz said we should wait until the letter coming from HPSCI is in hand and then decide on how we should respond to the overall issue.

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[Redacted]

May said someone from CHB has asked if a Family Day visit will be held at the Agency this year. May said none is planned for the remainder of this year and asked how others felt about having such a Day in the spring. Responses were positive. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Mr. Carlucci reported briefly on yesterday's SCC(I) meeting re covert action. He noted results were positive for moving ahead in several areas but in one area covert action should not push ahead of policy development. He said, despite some reservations at State, political action is being increasingly accepted as a useful tool in U.S. foreign policy. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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